
**Statement of Congressman Christopher Shays
on the Maloney-Shays-Udall Amendment to H.R. 3058, the Fiscal Year 2006
Transportation, Treasury, Housing and DC Appropriations Act
June 29, 2005**

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment, which would increase funding for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, created by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (P.L. 108-458), to \$1.5 million.

The bill currently reserves \$750,000 of the \$53 million budget of the Executive Office of the President for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. The amendment would reserve \$3 million of this \$53 million budget. This level of funding is closer to what was initially given to the 9/11 Commission.

The purpose of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is to ensure the protection of civil liberties by the federal government. The appropriate amount of funding is crucial in ensuring that privacy and civil liberties concerns are appropriately considered. This will prove significant in the implementation of laws, regulations, and executive branch policies related to efforts to protect our nation against terrorism.

In addition, the additional funding will allow the board to develop the infrastructure they need to do their job and will demonstrate Congress' intentions to fully support this significant board.

We certainly understand the need to aggressively fight the war on terror, but the 9/11 Commission Report reminds us that, "The choice between security and liberty is a false choice, as nothing is more likely to endanger America's liberties than the success of a terrorist attack at home. Our History has shown that this insecurity threatens liberty at home. Yet if our liberties are curtailed, we lose the values that we are struggling to defend."

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is an important body. We must do everything we can to ensure its efficiency and operation.